

Message Text

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12

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092654

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, EFIN, PFOR, ECAFE, GQ, XP

SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE GUAM MEMBERSHIP IN ECAFE

MANILA FOR USADB

REF: BANGKOK 6979

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. GUAM HAS BEEN INTERESTED IN ADB MEMBERSHIP FOR SOME TIME, PRIMARILY AS POSSIBLE SOURCE OF LOANS FOR CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES. UNTIL VERY RECENTLY, ECAFE ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP HAS BEEN REGARDED BY GUAM OFFICIALS ONLY AS NECESSARY STEP TO ADB MEMBERSHIP. LETTER FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMSTRONG TO GOVERNOR CAMACHO, MENTIONED REFTTEL, ALLUDED TO PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH ADB MEMBERSHIP FOR GUAM, THE MOST SERIOUS OF WHICH IS CONFIDENTIAL

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GUAM'S HIGH PER CAPITA INCOME, WHICH CALLS INTO QUESTION

WHETHER GUAM COULD EVER BORROW FROM ADB. LETTER ALSO SUGGESTED THAT ECAFE MEMBERSHIP MIGHT BE CONSIDERED SEPARATELY, IF GOVERNOR BELIEVED THAT ECAFE PROGRAMS COULD BE OF BENEFIT TO GUAM.

2. DURING APRIL VISIT TO WASHINGTON, EDWIN L. CAREY, DEAN OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, UNIVERSITY OF GUAM, AND AN ADVISER TO THE GOVERNOR, DISCUSSED ADB AND ECAFE INFORMALLY WITH STATE AND INTERIOR OFFICERS. DOUBTS THAT ADB MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE OF BENEFIT TO GUAM WERE EMPHASIZED TO CAREY.

CAREY APPEARED ESSENTIALLY IGNORANT OF ECAFE AND ITS FUNCTIONS, AND INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED TO HIM. WASHINGTON AGENCIES NOT AWARE GUAM DELEGATION PLANNED TO VISIT ECAFE SECRETARIAT. WE HAVE RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL WORD FROM GUAM THAT GOVERNOR INTENDS TO SEEK ECAFE MEMBERSHIP SEPARATELY FROM ADB QUESTION.

3. BOTH QUESTIONS -- ECAFE AND ADB MEMBERSHIP FOR GUAM -- ARE UNDER STUDY, AND YOU WILL BE ADVISED WHEN DECISION REACHED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. A CLASSIFIED STUDY ON THE GUAM-FEDERAL RELATIONSHIP WAS BEGUN IN LATE 1973, AND THE ADB/ECAFE ISSUE IS PART OF THAT STUDY. THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM HAS BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEPARATE REVIEW OF GUAM-FEDERAL RELATIONS, BUT IT NOW APPEARS THAT GUAMANIAN PARTICIPATION WILL BE DELAYED INDEFINITELY BECAUSE OF ELECTION-YEAR PROBLEMS IN GUAM. THIS IS THE "GENERAL REVIEW" REFERRED TO IN THE ARMSTRONG LETTER. LACKING THE REVIEW FORUM, IN WHICH THESE ISSUES COULD BE DISCUSSED, WE ARE THEREFORE AWAITING WORD FROM THE GOVERNOR ON HIS WISHES. WE ASSUME FROM INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTEL THAT APPLICATION FOR ECAFE MEMBERSHIP WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

5. PENDING RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND DECISION HERE, YOU SHOULD REFER ANY FURTHER INQUIRIES FROM GUAM OFFICIALS TO DEPARTMENT. RUSH

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